

a first and a second conductive layer deposited on first and second portions, respectively, of the non-conducting substrate and defining a non-conducting gap between the first and second conductive layers;

an analyte-specific reagent coated on the first conductive layer;

a reference electrode on the second conductive layer;

a spacer layer deposited over a portion of both the first and second conductive layers;

D2 a monofilament mesh coated with a surfactant or chaotropic agent, the mesh being laid over the analyte-specific reagent, the reference electrode and the spacer layer; and

a second non-conductive layer, adhered to and covering the mesh layer, said second non-conducting layer having an exterior edge such that the second non-conducting layer is not co-extensive with the mesh layer, thereby providing an exposed edge portion of the mesh at one exterior edge of the mesh.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application and the Office Action of March 27, 2002 are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14 and 15 remain in this Application as amended.

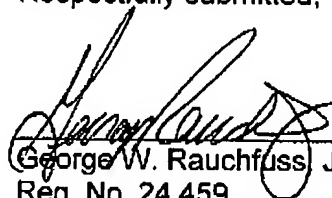
A typographical error was not in twice amended claim 1 filed May 14, 2002 and this Supplemental Amendment corrects the omission of the word "with" in the penultimate line of said claim. Additionally, independent claim 15 has been amended in the same manner as amended claim 1 and thereby places this claim in allowable condition for the reasons already explained in the response filed May 14, 2002.

A marked-up copy of the amended claims is included with this response.

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing is a full and complete response to the Office Action and that all the claims are allowable for at least the reasons indicated. An early indication of their allowability by issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


George W. Rauchfuss, Jr.
Reg. No. 24,459
Attorney for Applicant

Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.
One Landmark Square, Tenth Floor
Stamford, CT 06901-2682
Tel: (203) 327-4500
Fax: (203) 327-6401

Date: May 15, 2002

D

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Thrice Amended) A device for use in the electrochemical analysis of an analyte in a liquid sample, which comprises:

a non-conducting substrate;

a discontinuous conductive layer deposited on adjacent first and second portions, respectively, of the non-conducting substrate and defining a non-conducting gap between the first and second portions;

an analyte-specific reagent coated on the conductive layer on the first portion;

a reference electrode on the the conductive layer on the second portion;

a spacer layer deposited over the conductive layer;

a monofilament mesh coated with a surfactant or chaotropic agent, the mesh being laid over the analyte-specific reagent, the reference electrode and the spacer layer; and

a second non-conductive layer, adhered to and covering the mesh layer, said second non-conducting layer having an exterior edge such that the second non-conducting layer is not co-extensive with the mesh layer, thereby providing an exposed portion of the mesh at one exterior edge of the mesh.

15.(Amended) A device for use in the electrochemical analysis of an analyte in a liquid sample, which comprises:

a non-conducting substrate;

a first and a second conductive layer deposited on first and second portions, respectively, of the non-conducting substrate and defining a non-conducting gap between the first and second conductive layers;

an analyte-specific reagent coated on the first conductive layer;

a reference electrode on the second conductive layer;

a spacer layer deposited over a portion of both the first and second conductive layers;

a monofilament mesh coated with a surfactant or chaotropic agent, the mesh

being laid over the analyte-specific reagent, the reference electrode and the spacer layer;
and

a second non-conductive layer, adhered to and covering the mesh layer, [but] said second non-conducting layer having an exterior edge such that the second non-conducting layer is not co-extensive [therewith] with the mesh layer, thereby providing [a sample application area] an exposed edge pportion of the mesh at one exterior edge of the mesh.